

In re Application of Robert V. Walsh  
Application No. 10/621,586

### REMARKS

#### *The Pending Claims*

Claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended, and claims 2-4 and 7 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Thus, claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-10 currently are pending in the application.

#### *Summary of the Office Action*

The Office Action objects to the drawing under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to depict every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

The Office Action also objects to the specification of the present application under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as his invention.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,705,639 (Masuda) (hereinafter "the Masuda '639 patent").

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 4-10 recite subject matter that is patentable over the prior and states that the claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the section 112, second paragraph, rejections and to include all of the limitations of any base claim and any intervening claims.

#### *Discussion of the Objection to the Drawings*

Claims 2 and 7, which recited that the slits are substantially perpendicular to the line defined by the first and second anchor points, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the drawing under 37 CFR 1.83(a) has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

#### *Discussion of the Objection to the Specification*

As noted above, Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the specification under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

In re Application of Robert V. Walsh  
Application No. 10/621,586

*Discussion of the Section 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections*

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to delete the reference to a "tubular" structure, thereby clarifying that the claim element refers to the inflatable structure. Furthermore, as noted above, claims 2 and 7 have been canceled. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the section 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1-10 have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

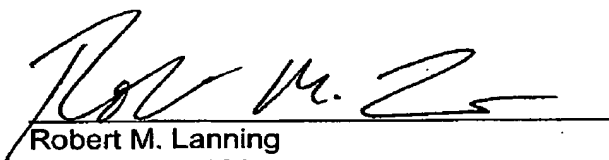
*Discussion of the Section 102 Rejection*

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 4, which the Office Action acknowledged as reciting subject matter that is patentable over the prior art, and claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the section 102 rejection over the Masuda '639 patent has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

*Conclusion*

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered in proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Lanning  
Reg. No. 57,121  
MILLIKEN & COMPANY, M-495  
P.O. Box 1926  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
Telephone: (864) 503-1537  
Facsimile: (864) 503-1999

Date: August 30, 2005